

141st Signal Battalion continues to sharpen the sword

By 1st Lt. Jeremiah Wildermuth, B Company, 141st Signal Battalion

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- With redeployment quickly approaching and the scorching Iraqi sun pushing temperatures well over 115 degrees Fahrenheit, the 141st Signal Battalion continues training in order to keep Soldiers' warrior skills sharp.

Recently the battalion conducted four M-16A2 rifle and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon firing ranges. Soldiers took on Convoy Reaction Drills, Drivers Training and Common Task Training in addition to the marksmanship qualifications and refresher training.

The primary focus of the training was to prepare approximately 30 Soldiers, who had recently arrived from Germany, for the rigors of patrolling through central Iraq and convoy operations to Kuwait.

Other Soldiers underwent sustainment training to keep their skills sharp.

Demonstrating ingenuity and creativity, the battalion's NCOs found a few ways to fight the heat.

Range NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wood of Alpha Company devised a plan to shade the entire firing line using a solar shield. This technique not only helped Soldiers qualifying, but also made the range safety and tower NCOs' job much easier.

Wood also brought to the range a deep freezer, stocked with ice, ensuring cold water for all soldiers. These procedures were implemented across the battalion to beat the heat while continuing to train.

The training, though difficult in the heat, helped build the confidence of the new Soldiers and has left them prepared for what lies outside of the safety of the Baghdad International Airport.

"Arriving in Baghdad, I had a lot of worries," said Pfc. Broderick Punch of Bravo Company, "but with all the training and the soldiers and NCOs really bringing me into the team, I feel pretty calm about heading down to Kuwait. And if something does happen, I'll know how to handle it."



Soldiers from the 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division hone their marksmanship skills in the Iraqi sands. The signal Soldiers qualified on M16 and M249 Squad Automatic Weapons ranges shaded by a canopy developed by a 141st Signal noncommissioned officer.

Dragoons reach out to Community in Iraq

By CPT Sean Kirley, 2nd ACR Regimental PAO

NAJAF, Iraq -- The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment spent a year in Baghdad, helping the people of that city rebuild their lives and regain their livelihood.

When the "Dragoons" received orders to move into southern Iraq, they continued to help Iraqis living in Najaf. The people of this city have been receptive of the troopers, and the "Iron Dukes" of 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

On May 20, elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd ACR, visited a school on the outskirts of Najaf to distribute school supplies, boxes of candy, and t-shirts that had the words "prosperity," "progress" and "Iraq" in English and Arabic.

The three-vehicle convoy, led by the Sgt. Maj. Samuel Rhodes, arrived at

the Virgin Mary Primary School just before noon.

Immediately, throngs of children, led by a few teachers, surrounded the Soldiers. As Rhodes, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Kerry and Spc. Matthew Mabry began to distribute the gifts, the children laughed and cheered, hauling bags of school supplies into a hallway.

Rhodes was then escorted on a quick tour of the school. He wrote down in detail deficiencies and the needed improvements pointed out by the school's headmaster. Projects recommend by Rhodes include renovation of the latrine, air conditioning, and a daily supply of water for the school. Also, many windows needed to be replaced and general repairs made.

"We will be back tomorrow," he told the students and teachers. "And we will keep coming back until this work is complete."

The next day, the renovations started. The regiment plans to continue to help the community by distributing 1,000 pairs of shoes, 1,000 shorts and shirts, and 750 humanitarian aid bags. The contents of the humanitarian bags include foodstuff, toys, and clothing.

Other rural neighborhoods and schools will receive these bags and renovation project.

The Dragoons continue to lead the way in helping the Iraqi people live safer, more secure and prosperous lives.

Correction...

Maj. Thomas Lee, 425th Civil Affairs Battalion Preventive Medicine Officer, was incorrectly identified in a photograph in yesterday's Old Ironsides Report.



Quote of the Day...

"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."

-- Brendan Francis Behan (1923-64), Irish writer, playwright



Sgt. Maj. Samuel Rhodes, 2nd ACR, distributes a tee shirt to an Iraqi child at the Virgin Mary Primary School in Najaf, Iraq. The Soldiers of 2nd ACR are working to help rebuild local neighborhoods. Photo by Capt. Sean Kirley

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Believing without Seeing

There once was a skeptical physician who claimed that the only reality was what the physical senses could discern. He asked a local minister if he had ever "Heard, seen, smelled or tasted God?" "No", replied the minister, "but I have felt Him". "Now then" said the doctor with apparent triumph, "I have proved, beyond a doubt, by four respectable witnesses, that God is not seen heard, smelled, or tasted; and but one lone, solitary witness, namely feeling, has testified that He is real. The weight of evidence is over powering, Sir, to say otherwise would make you a hypocrite." The minister then said to the doctor, "In pretending to relive pain in the human system, you have been playing the hypocrite, and defrauding those who come to you for aid." To prove his point, the clergymen then asked the doctor, "Have you ever heard, seen, smelled or tasted pain?" "No replied the doctor, "but I have felt it". Then said the clergy, "Four respectable witnesses have testified that there is no such thing as pain in a human system, therefore in treating others for pain you are a hypocrite." Obviously, there is a reality beyond the reach of our senses, a world accessed by faith and not science. In fact, faith that is based upon the senses is weaker then that which is solely based upon a decision to believe. Or as Jesus once said to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1777 American troops give up Fort Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain, to the British.

1795 Thomas Paine defends the principal of universal suffrage at the Constitutional Convention in Paris.

1798 Napoleon Bonaparte's army begins its march towards Cairo from Alexandria.

1815 After defeating Napoleon at Waterloo, the victorious Allies march into Paris.

1863 Confederate General Robert E. Lee, in Hagerstown, Maryland, reports his defeat at Gettysburg to President Jefferson Davis.

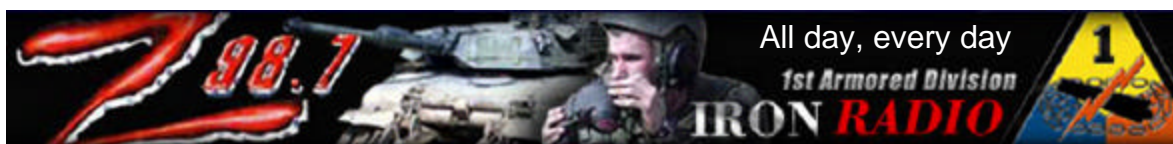
1925 Afrikaans is recognized as one of the official languages of South Africa, along with English and Dutch.

1941 Although a neutral country, the United States sends troops to occupy Iceland to keep it out of Germany's hands.

1943 Adolf Hitler makes the V-2 missile program a top priority in armament planning.

1969 The first U.S. units to withdraw from South Vietnam leave Saigon.

1981 Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.



Oddly Enough

Paper Gets Unfortunate Exclusive

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The New York Post trumpeted Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry's choice of running mate as a front-page exclusive on Tuesday. Trouble is, it named the wrong man. Before Tuesday's long-awaited announcement, the tabloid reported in an unbylined story that Kerry's pick was Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri. But around 9 a.m., hours after the late edition hit the streets, Kerry named Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

"KERRY'S CHOICE Dem picks Gephardt as VP candidate," blared the banner headline in the Post, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp and is openly supportive of Republican President Bush.

The Post's fierce cross-town rival, the tabloid Daily News, could not resist poking fun.

Media sources said the News sent a case of champagne to Post editors and a note, "Congratulations on your front page. Have a nice day," with a smiley face. The barb refers to a Post advertisement near the Daily News building showing improved circulation figures, with the words "have a nice day" and smiley face.

The error recalls the infamous 1948 front-page headline in The Chicago Tribune that blared "Dewey Defeats Truman" -- when in fact Democrat Harry Truman won re-election to the White House against Republican Thomas Dewey in an upset.

Prof. David Rubin, a media expert at Syracuse University in upstate New York, said: "The mistake makes the New York Post look foolish and all it shows is that one should not trust the New York Post, a conservative Republican paper, on inside matters of the Democratic Party."

A spokesman for the Post declined immediate comment.



Man Tries to Rob Bank ATM with Bulldozer

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - A Saudi man posing as a municipal worker used a bulldozer in an inept attempt to rob a bank's automatic teller machine but fled when the police arrived, a local daily reported on Tuesday.

The English-language Arab News said residents of the Red Sea city Jeddah called the police after being woken by the noise of the bulldozer, but did not realize for some time that the man was trying to rob the bank.

"It was disturbing. But it never crossed my mind we were watching a theft," witness Mohammed al-Assiri told Arab News. "With all that's happening this is the last thing we need."

Saudi Arabia has been rocked by a wave of shooting and bomb attacks attributed to al Qaeda in the past year, in which up to 85 police and civilians, many of them foreigners, have been killed.

Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, JULY 07, 2004			As of: Wednesday, July 07, 2004 12:56:00 AM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
00:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
01:00	4 QTRS	MLB - TEXAS RANGERS @ CLEVELAND INDIANS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
01:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH		CBS EVENING NEWS
02:00	TOUR DE FRANCE - STAGE 3		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE GREAT	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - WHAT DID BLUE SEE?	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE MOVES IN	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	
03:00			RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT (TVPG): - HELL EAT ANYTHING/ JET BELLY DRAGCOW PORTHOLE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES
04:00	MLB - COLORADO ROCKIES @ SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS	ESPNEWS	ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - AN AFFIRMING FLAME (PT. 2)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWS/ HOUR
04:30		ESPNEWS			
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 5	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS
05:30		ESPNEWS	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - DON LOPEZ	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - BREAKING THE JAPANESE CODE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS			
07:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	CONGO		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
07:30	TOTALLY NASCAR				
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - WHAT DID BLUE SEE?		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - THE SPIDER AND THE LIE	PAULA ZAHN NOW
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - MY SISTER THE SPY/ THE SINISTER SUBSTITUTE!	
09:00	MLB - CINCINNATI REDS @ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - RUN IN THE DESERT	NIGHTLINE
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T BE KING	HEADLINE NEWS
09:45		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE GREAT	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE MOVES IN	HEADLINE NEWS	
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
11:00			RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT (TVPG): - HELL EAT ANYTHING/ JET BELLY DRAGCOW PORTHOLE	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK
11:07		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):			
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT	
12:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - AN AFFIRMING FLAME (PT. 2)	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT: NIGHT OF THE LOCUST (PT. 3)	THE O'REILLY FACTOR
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - WHO'S THAT LADY	
13:00	TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS - COURTNEY BURTON VS NANI HERNANDEZ	TODAY	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 5	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - TWINS SHOW	GOOD MORNING AMERICA
13:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - DON LOPEZ		
14:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - BREAKING THE JAPANESE CODE	LAS VEGAS (TV14): - PILOT	
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - THE SPIDER AND THE LIE	CONGO	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS
15:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - MY SISTER THE SPY/ THE SINISTER SUBSTITUTE!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING
16:00	TRACK & FIELD - IAAF GOLDEN GALA	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - RUN IN THE DESERT			THE EARLY SHOW
16:30		LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T BE KING		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA		
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	
18:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE GREAT	THE YOUNG LIONS	FOX NEWS LIVE
18:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT				
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE MOVES IN		
19:00	MLB - DETROIT TIGERS @ NY YANKEES	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT: NIGHT OF THE LOCUST (PT. 3)	RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT (TVPG): - HELL EAT ANYTHING/ JET BELLY DRAGCOW PORTHOLE		FOX NEWS LIVE
19:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - WHO'S THAT LADY			
20:00		FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - TWINS SHOW	ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - AN AFFIRMING FLAME (PT. 2)		FOX NEWS LIVE
21:00		LAS VEGAS (TV14): - PILOT	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 5	AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS (TVG):	HEADLINE NEWS
21:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - DON LOPEZ		INSIDE POLITICS
22:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - BREAKING THE JAPANESE CODE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
22:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		CONGO	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			